

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 are pending in the present application, Claims 2, 4, and 5 having been amended, and Claims 1 and 3 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants request that the present amendment after final be entered as no new issues requiring further search and/or consideration are raised.

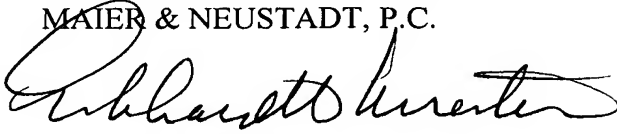
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ahmed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,127, hereinafter Ahmed) in view of Malladi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0210668); Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ahmed in view of Malladi, and further in view of Miyoshi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0022629, hereinafter Miyoshi); and Claims 2 and 4 were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claims 2 and 4 are rewritten in independent form and Claims 1 and 3 are canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2 and 4 (and dependent Claim 5) are in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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